

## **MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region - 2010**

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### **NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #6**

**September 29, 2010**

**General Comments** - This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers. The maturity newsletter is updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or [nwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:nwmihort@msu.edu)).

If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 to 12 apple sample at the NW Station on Mondays, if possible. The fruit should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

August and September rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Cool evenings and sunny days are helping with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks.

**McIntosh** - Harvest finished.

**HoneyCrisp** - Harvest finished.

**Gala** - Harvest finished.

**Golden Delicious** - Approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness is 17.4 lbs., down from 18.3 lbs. last week. Starch index is 2.2, up from 1.3 and brix levels are at 15.2, up from 13.9 last week. Background color is beginning to lighten in most blocks with a blush covering up to 20% of each fruit.

**Jonagold** - Mature (2 samples). Firmness is at 16.9 lbs., down from 17.4 lbs. Starch index is at 4.5, up from 1.9 last week and brix levels are at 15.9. Color has improved to 90%.

**Northern Spy** - Approaching mature to mature (2 samples). Firmness is 21.3 lbs., down from 21.8 lbs and starch index is 3.0, up from 2.1. Brix levels are at 12.9. Color is between 50 and 60%

**Ida Red** - Approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness is 17.7 lbs., down from 18.9 lbs and the starch index is 3.3, up from 2.5. Brix levels are at 13.2. Color is excellent at 95%

**Rome** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is 22.0 lbs., starch index is about 2.0. Brix levels are at 13.0. Color is at 95%, but has not turned to a true red. No color was found to be bleeding into the flesh at this time.

**Other** (Based on limited testing) - Empire - Mature; Red Delicious - Approaching mature.

#### **STATEWIDE REPORTS**

**Southwest:** Many Red Delicious and Golden Delicious blocks have been harvested in the area. By next week will see many operations finishing up harvest. Jonathan firmness has dropped a bit and starch index is in the mature to overmature range with firmness ranging from excellent for long term CA to short term storage firmness. Golden Delicious firmness is in the mid to LT CA range and starch conversion made a large jump over last week. Fruit drop is common in sites not protected by stop drop sprays. Red Delicious firmness is generally in the mid-term storage range with starch conversion in the mature to the over mature range. Idared firmness is still in the excellent to very good range in most sites, starch conversion are now in the mature range. Fuji firmness is averaging 18.3

**Southeast:** Apple harvest is moving very fast this year and many can see the end in sight. They will likely finish in a week to 10 days. Crop is picking out shorter than anticipated. Growers are picking Golden and Red Delicious harvest is underway. Ida Reds are three to five days away. Fujis and Braeburns are a week away.

**Grand Rapids:** Most growers have finished Idareds, and Red Delicious harvest is underway. Fujis and Braeburn will be harvesting into next week, but overall many growers will be finished by the end of this week. Some growers are letting workers go because harvest is wrapping up early.

**West Central:** Golden delicious harvest is just about done. Red Delicious firmness is very good to excellent. All samples except one are on the mature side and color is excellent. Harvest is underway in most of the sampled blocks. Idared had little firmness change and starch conversion is showing slow movement. Two samples are testing immature, and color is very good.

**NW Michigan Pome Fruit Code-a-phone/Apple Maturity Line (231) 947-3063**  
or at <http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/applemat.html>

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